

June 5, 2014

To: Senator Rocca and Members of the Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform

From: Susanne Consiglio, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

Title: Michigan Academy, Executive Director and Private Practice RDN

Good afternoon. My name is Susanne Consiglio and I live in St. Clair Shores. I have worked as a registered dietitian nutritionist for 33 years and have been in private practice for the last 26 years. I am part of the healthcare team working with several physicians who refer patients to me for medical nutrition therapy. I am also the executive director for the Michigan Academy since 2005.

As of June 2, there are **4800 registered dietitian/nutritionists** in Michigan. About 1800 are members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and have listed Michigan as their affiliate state. It is not mandatory for dietitians to join the Association. (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.) There is no monopoly. Dietitians are a diverse group, in numerous practice areas from prevention to chronic disease, pediatric to older adults/retirees, and are not just in hospital and food service settings.

The licensure law was **not designed to prevent** individuals and groups from selling health foods, health products, and dietary supplements. Supporting licensure will not put weight loss companies and supplement sellers out of business. When we speak of harm to patients, let's remind you of the financial harm. People will continue to spend hundreds of dollars each month on products that may not improve their health. Our cases of harm that I received in the Michigan Academy office were dismissed and were labeled as anecdotal by people who support this repeal bill.

Licensure allows the public to identify individuals who are qualified by education and experience to provide Medical Nutrition Therapy. It is not an attempt to control the market.

The public can identify a licensed barber, plumber, or social worker. They can ask them "are you licensed." Why is it necessary to license these groups?

Medical Nutrition Therapy includes:

1. Performing a comprehensive nutrition assessment determining the nutrition diagnosis;
2. Planning and implementing a nutrition intervention using evidence-based nutrition practice guidelines; treating the "whole patient"
3. Monitoring and evaluating an individual's progress over subsequent visits.

**I urge you to oppose House Bill 4688.** Thank you.

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